Eric

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

January 18, 2000

The Honorable Dale Bagley, Mayor
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N. Binkley
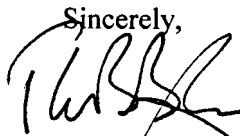Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mayor Bagley:

This letter is in response to a September 30 letter from your predecessor, Mayor Navarre, concerning the Williamsport to Pile Bay Road, and your letter to Governor Knowles of December 29.

As you know, this project is under active consideration in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. We have identified possible road improvements, including a road extension along the north shore of Lake Illiamna and beyond, as well as a possible ferry which could serve a possible new link between Homer and Williamsport. You can download a CODY of this report off our web site at the following web address: ftp://ftp.dot.state.ak.us/pub/planning/SW alts/AppendixA1.pdf. If you would prefer a paper copy, please call our office at 1-888-PLAN DOT.

It is premature to speculate on what the plan will recommend regarding this project, but there is considerable support for improving the road. Currently, regardless of the **plan's** final recommendation, our Maintenance and Operations manager for Central Region, Mr. Chris Kepler, is seeking funds for interim bridge improvements. Such improvements alone would go a long way to re-establishing this link as an important freight and boat haul route.

We are very aware of the current and potential importance this route can play to both the Kenai Peninsula Borough and communities west of Cook Inlet. I thank you for taking the time to write and look forward to continuing the dialog on the STIP process for bettering the transportation opportunities for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Tom Brigham
Director

25A-T26LH

Chris Kepler, PE, Central Region Maintenance and Operations
John Tolley, Central Region Planning and Administration
Jeff Ottesen
Eric Taylor
Jack Melton